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Message Text

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53
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMS-03 SS-20 SP-03 PER-05 ABF-01 LAB-06

DRC-01 RSC-01 /066 W
---------- 126978
R 030950Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9729

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: APER, PO
SUBJ: ASSIGNMENT OF LABOR ATTACHE TO LISBON

1. AS THE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE NOTED FROM RECENT EMBASSY REPORTING, LABOR HAS SUDDENLY BECOME A CRITICAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTOR IN PORTUGAL. WITH BOTH COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS ACTIVELY BUILDING A POLITICAL BASE IN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, AND WITH AMERICAN BUSINESSES BEING PROFOUNDLY AFFECTED BY EFFERVESCENCE AMONG WORKERS, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THIS EMBASSY HAVE THE STAFF RESOURCES TO FOLLOW THE LABOR SCENE CLOSELY AND TO SEEK TO EXERT SOME INFLUENCE IN THAT FIELD.

2. THE EMBASSY ACCORDINGLY RECOMMENDS THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO ESTABLISH A LABOR ATTACHE POSITION IN LISBON. WE HAVE IN MIND A RELATIVELY SENIOR OFFICER, AT THE O-3 LEVEL, WHO COMBINES A TRADE UNION BACK-GROUND WITH POLITICAL REPORTING SKILLS. IN ADDITION TO SPEAKING PORTUGUESE, THE OFFICER MUST BE ABLE TO SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF TRADE UNIONISTS AND TO COMMUNICATE WITH PERSONS ACROSS THE LABOR SPECTRUM, INCLUDING THOSE ON THE FAR LEFT. INDIVIDUALS KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY WHO, PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE SKILL ASIDE, COULD SERVE AS ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF THE TYPE OF OFFICER REQUIRED: EDWARD F. MCHALE AND A. IRWIN
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RUBENSTEIN.

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3. WE FEEL THE LABOR ATTACHE SHOULD HEAD A SEPARATE
LABOR SECTION OF THE EMBASSY TO WHICH WE WOULD PLAN
TO ASSIGN OUR PRESENT POL/ECON OFFICER. WE RECOMMEND
THAT THE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISH AN ADDITIONAL SECRETARIAL
POSITION FOR THIS SECTION. SCOTT

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Disposition Event:
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